

Translation of the pertinent portions of a response by KBA,
dtd. 06/08/2004

Responsive to the NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE FORWARDING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT of 05/07/2004

Claims 1 and 5, amended under Art. 19 PCT, as well as new claims 21, 22 (replacement pages 15, 16, 19, version of 06/08/2004) are being filed. The remaining claims 2 to 4 and 6 to 20 remain unchanged.

Claim 1 has been clarified by the inclusion of the wording "on which simultaneously a respective ... coming from the same former (02, 03)". This clarifying characteristic can be found without a doubt in the drawing figures (the same former) and is supported by "brought together" (simultaneous occurrence) on page 4, penultimate paragraph.

For clarification, the terms "can be conducted" and "to be brought together" have been replaced by "are conducted" and "brought together" in claim 5.

New claims 21, 22 have been formed from characteristics in the specification on page 5, penultimate paragraph. An obvious typographical error (circumference / in steps) has already been taken into consideration in the course of this.

Remarks Regarding DE 43 26 855 A1:

There, partial continuous webs coming from a former are at best glued together. In the embodiment with a stapler, the complete continuous web from a former is conducted through the stapler. A bypass for a partial continuous web from the same former, which is not to be stapled, is not provided.

Remarks Regarding DE 43 44 362 A1:

Fig. 1 merely represents possible guide elements for a continuous web. Partial continuous webs, which are simultaneously conducted on two different paths are neither represented nor disclosed. This would also not be possible, since no cutting device is provided there. Fig. 1 considered by itself, without the specification, would represent an accidental unintended disclosure of simultaneously conducted partial continuous webs at most.

Enclosures:

Claims, replacement pages 15, 16, 19, version of 06/08/2004,
in triplicate.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Office on June 17, 2004
(06/17/2004);

Original claims 1 and 5 amended
new claims 21 and 22 added;
(3 pages)

Claims

1. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least one former (02, 03), at least one longitudinal cutter (07, 08) and at least two guide paths, on each of which a partial continuous web (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs of the continuous web (26) coming simultaneously from the same former (02, 03) can be conducted, which are united into a main continuous web (29) at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01), characterized in that a stapler (17, 17') is arranged at one of the guide paths for stapling the partial continuous web (27) conducted on this guide path.

2. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 1, characterized by at least a second former (03, 02) and a guide path for conducting a second continuous web (24) or partial continuous web (27', 28') from the second former (03, 02) to the outlet.

3. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that respective partial continuous webs (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs from the first former (02, 03) are simultaneously conducted along both sides of the second former (03, 02) and are united at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01) with the further continuous web (24) from the second former (03, 02) located between them to form a main continuous web (29).

4. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that in addition a stapler (17, 17') for stapling the partial continuous web (27, 28) or continuous web (24) conducted on the respective guide path is arranged at the other one of the guide paths for the two partial continuous webs (27, 28) and/or the guide path for the further continuous web (24).

5. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least

one former (02, 03) and at least one longitudinal cutter (07, 08), characterized in that at least two guide paths are assigned to a first one of the formers (02, 03), on which respective partial continuous webs (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs from the first former (02, 03) are simultaneously conducted along both sides of the second former (03, 02) and are united at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01) together with a further continuous web (24) from the second former (03, 02) located between them to form a main continuous web (29).

6. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 5, characterized in that a stapler (17) for stapling the partial continuous web (27, 28), or the continuous web (24) is arranged on one of the guide paths for the two partial continuous webs (27, 28) and/or the guide path for the continuous web (24).

7. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least two formers (02, 03), as well as two staplers (17, 17') assigned to the formers (02, 03) in respectively one guide path from the assigned former (02, 03) to an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01), characterized in that the continuous web mixing device (01) has at least one deflection roller (09, 14, 36, 37), over which a partial continuous web (27, 28, 27', 28'), or the entire continuous web (26, 24) from a first one of the formers (02, 03) can be conducted

through the stapler (17', 17) assigned to the second former (03, 02) together with a partial continuous web (27', 28', 27, 28) or the entire continuous web (24, 26) from this second former (03, 02).

8. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that at least one deflection roller (09, 14, 36, 37) is provided, over which selectively none of the partial continuous webs (27, 28, 27', 28'), a partial continuous web (28) from the one former (02), a partial continuous web (28') from the other former (03), or simultaneously partial continuous webs (27, 28, 27', 28')

partial continuous web (27, 28) prior to entering a downstream located folding apparatus (19).

20. The method in accordance with claim 18, characterized in that partial webs conducted over the same former (02, 03) are assigned to two different stapled partial continuous webs (27, 28) prior to entering a downstream located folding apparatus (19).

21. The continuous web mixing device in accordance with claim 1, 5 or 7, characterized in that a number of webs of the continuous web (26) can be divided as desired on the partial continuous webs (27, 28).

22. The continuous web mixing device in accordance with claim 21, characterized in that depending on the distribution, the size of the stapled layer in the main continuous web can be selected as desired in steps of respectively four pages.

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Claims

1. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least one former (02, 03), at least one longitudinal cutter (07, 08) and at least two guide paths, on each of which a partial continuous web (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs of the continuous web (26) coming simultaneously from the same former (02, 03) can be conducted, which are united into a main continuous web (29) at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01), characterized in that a stapler (17, 17') is arranged at one of the guide paths for stapling the partial continuous web (27) conducted on this guide path.

2. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 1, characterized by at least a second former (03, 02) and a guide path for conducting a second continuous web (24) or partial continuous web (27', 28') from the second former (03, 02) to the outlet.

3. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that respective partial continuous webs (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs from the first former (02, 03) are simultaneously conducted along both sides of the second former (03, 02) and are united at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01) with the further continuous web (24) from the second former (03, 02) located between them to form a main continuous web (29).

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4. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that in addition a stapler (17, 17') for stapling the partial continuous web (27, 28) or continuous web (24) conducted on the respective guide path is arranged at the other one of the guide paths for the two partial continuous webs (27, 28) and/or the guide path for the further continuous web (24).

5. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least

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one former (02, 03) and at least one longitudinal cutter (07, 08), characterized in that at least two guide paths are assigned to a first one of the formers (02, 03), on which respective partial continuous webs (27, 28) of longitudinally cut partial webs from the first former (02, 03) are simultaneously conducted along both sides of the second former (03, 02) and are united at an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01) together with a further continuous web (24) from the second former (03, 02) located between them to form a main continuous web (29).

6. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 5, characterized in that a stapler (17) for stapling the partial continuous web (27, 28), or the continuous web (24) is arranged on one of the guide paths for the two partial continuous webs (27, 28) and/or the guide path for the continuous web (24).

7. A continuous web mixing device (01) with at least two formers (02, 03), as well as two staplers (17, 17') assigned to the formers (02, 03) in respectively one guide path from the assigned former (02, 03) to an outlet of the continuous web mixing device (01), characterized in that the continuous web mixing device (01) has at least one deflection roller (09, 14, 36, 37), over which a partial continuous web (27, 28, 27', 28'), or the entire continuous web (26, 24) from a first one of the formers (02, 03) can be conducted through the stapler (17', 17) assigned to the second former (03, 02) together with a partial continuous web (27', 28',

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27, 28) or the entire continuous web (24, 26) from this second former (03, 02).

8. The continuous web mixing device (01) in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that at least one deflection roller (09, 14, 36, 37) is provided, over which selectively none of the partial continuous webs (27, 28, 27', 28'), a partial continuous web (28) from the one former (02), a partial continuous web (28') from the other former (03), or simultaneously partial continuous webs (27, 28, 27', 28')

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partial continuous web (27, 28) prior to entering a downstream located folding apparatus (19).

20. The method in accordance with claim 18, characterized in that partial webs conducted over the same former (02, 03) are assigned to two different stapled partial continuous webs (27, 28) prior to entering a downstream located folding apparatus (19).

21. The continuous web mixing device in accordance with claim 1, 5 or 7, characterized in that a number of webs of the continuous web (26) can be divided as desired on the partial continuous webs (27, 28).

22. The continuous web mixing device in accordance with claim 21, characterized in that depending on the distribution, the size of the stapled layer in the main continuous web can be selected as desired in steps of respectively four pages.